Chittal skins	7
Fox skins	8
Otter skins	128
Tiger cubs skins	2
Leopard cat skins	7
Black buck skins	6
Civet cat skins	2
Desert cat skins	2
Jackal skins	1
Leopard paws with claws	50
Fur coat of otter	1

News item under caption 'Doon's Liquor Mafia liquidates green lung"

632. SHRI RAJANI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report in the Indian Express of 1st September, 1993 captioned, "Doon's liquor mafia liquidates green lung";

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and what directions issued by Government for preventing indiscriminate denudation of forests and felling of trees by mafia in connivance with Forest Dept. personnel in different States and Union Territories; and

(c) what is Government's assessment about deforestation caused by such activities during the decade 1981—90 and 1991—93 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have been forwarding all the complaints received from public relating to illict felling of trees and theft of forest produce to the concerned Governments of the States/Union Territories for enquiry and necessary action. Where allegations of connivance of the personnel of forest department is made action has to be taken by the concerned State/UT Governments after due enquiry. Central assistance is provided to the Government of States/UTs under the scheme "Development of Infrastructure for Forest Protection" for procuring communication and other necessary equipments for effective protection of forests.

(c) The protection of forests is primarily the responsibility of the States/UTs. But assessment conducted by Forest Survey of India based on satellite imageries shows a net increase of 56,000 hectares in the forest area in 1898 over the 1987 assessment.

Eucalyptus Plantation Project

633. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering for holding an enquiry with regard to the Eucalyptus plantation project in

the country particularly in Haryana as the project was started in previous Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government are aware of the colossal loss to the farmers due to attaining a huge growth of Eucalyptus plants which affected crops of the farmers;

(c) whether Government are aware of the ecology and environment experts' opinion that this plant is not fit for road side, cropped area, and canal courses;

(d) whether the financial loss has been incurred by the farmers as well as the State of Haryana as a result of the plantation;

(e) how much funds were swandled away due to this project; and

(f) whether the farmers have been provided any compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. No project under the name Eucalyptus Plantation Project has been implemented during the previous Five Year Plan.

(b) No information regarding colossal loss to the farmers due to attaining a huge growth of eucalyptus plants which affected crops of the farmers has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) Research work undertaken in this respect has established that there is no positive evidence that Eucalyptus is not fit for road side, cropped area and canal courses.

(d) State Government of Haryana has informed that there has been no financial loss to the farmers in the Haryana State.

(e) No project under the name Eucalyptus plantation project has been implemented during the previous five year plan and thus question of swindling does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

Depredation of forest land

634. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the gradual depredation of forest land during the years 1991, 1992 and in 1993;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to arrest it and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Assessment of the forest cover of the country is done once in two years on the basis of visual inter-pretation of satellite imagery. The latest assessment, documented in the State of Forest Report, 1991 by the Forest Survey of India indicates that there has been a net increase of 560 sq. kms. in the forest cover of the country as compared to the earlier assessment as documented in the State of Forest Report 1989.

(b) and (c) The increase registered in the forest cover is on account of a number of steps taken by the Government. These include improved protection measures, conservation and development of forests, rehabilitation of degraded forests, social forestry schemes, participatory forest management programmes etc. These activities continue to get increased attention from the Government.

Decrease in tiger population

635. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tiger population has considerably decreased as per census conducted by the Forest Department and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor and what steps have been taken to remedy the situation?